

OVERVIEW OF AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

	AmeriCorps Program (established 1993)	AmeriCorps Education Awards Program (established 1997)	AmeriCorps*VISTA Program (Volunteers in Service to America) (established 1964)	AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Conservation Corps) (established 1994)
GOALS	<p>AmeriCorps engages citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities in community service. AmeriCorps programs have 3 main components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <i>Needs and Service Activities</i> – direct service and volunteer generation, priority community needs; ♦ <i>Strengthening Communities</i> –community involvement, collaboration, volunteer participation, and diversity; and, ♦ <i>Member Development</i> – ethic of service, training, supervision, and support. 		AmeriCorps*VISTA increases self-sufficiency of residents in low-income communities by developing (1) programs that can continue after the VISTA completes the term of service and (2) capacity building projects that expand services to reach more people.	AmeriCorps*NCCC strengthens communities and develops leaders through team-based service. AmeriCorps*NCCC meets urgent community needs by deploying well-trained and organized teams of 10-12 members who contribute their labor to local projects.
FOCUS	<p>AmeriCorps direct service activities include: tutoring, mentoring, home visiting, environmental stewardship activities, and volunteer generation and support. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the added value AmeriCorps resources bring to the program design. Clerical work and research may not be performed unless they are in support of a direct service. No more than 20 percent of service time can be dedicated to education, training, or other approved non-direct service activities.</p>		VISTAs encourage permanent, long-term solutions to problems confronting low-income communities; secure commitment of private sector resources; encourage volunteer service; and, strengthen the capacity of local agencies.	Members serve in teams to meet urgent community needs in homeland security, disaster relief, the environment, and youth development.
ELIGIBLE GRANTEES	Public-private partnerships with a minimum of three members.		Public and private not-for-profit organizations.	Public and private not-for-profit organizations.

PROGRAM SIZE	Partnerships may request no less than 20 AmeriCorps FTE members; members must serve in teams of two or more. <i>Please note that program size requirements for both AmeriCorps and VISTA are guidelines only – applicants may request fewer members by providing adequate justification in their applications.</i>		Organizations are encouraged to engage multiple VISTAs for a project, but may request a single VISTA.	AmeriCorps*NCCC is a full-time national service program for young adults aged 18-24. Members serve for 10 months and live on one of 5 “campuses” located throughout the United States: Denver, Colorado; Charleston, South Carolina; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Member training includes CPR, first aid, disaster relief services, leadership, team building, and citizenship. Teams serve on projects throughout the country with nonprofit programs, state and local agencies, and other community and faith-based groups. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams are often deployed away from their campuses on projects known as “spikes.” Spikes normally involve at least one team of 10-12
FUNDING				
GRANTS	Three-year grants with renewal based on progress toward meeting objectives and available funding. Timing for Request for Proposals (RFP) varies each year. Maximum grant amounts vary each year depending of funding available.	Three-year grants with annual renewal based on progress toward meeting objectives. Request for Proposals due each spring, with applications typically available in February. No maximum grant amount.	One-year grant, renewable for up to two additional years based on availability of resources and project performance.	
GENERAL	AmeriCorps provides up to \$14,575 per AmeriCorps member FTE; lower cost per member increases competitive advantage.	Up to \$400 per member FTE provided for program management costs; remainder to be provided by grantee; no match requirement.	AmeriCorps provides member support, while project provides program support. Project provides some member support in cost share projects to increase number of members and sustainability.	
MEMBER SUPPORT: LIVING ALLOWANCES	AmeriCorps provides up to \$8,160 per member FTE for the living allowance; at least \$1,440 must be matched by grantee.	No AmeriCorps funding provided.	AmeriCorps provides funding for living allowance.	

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY, RECRUITMENT, AND SELECTION				<p>members and are approximately 6-8 weeks in duration. Some projects may extend beyond 8 weeks.</p> <p>Organizations and programs that would benefit from the labor of AmeriCorps*NCCC members are eligible to apply to become project sponsors. Sponsors are not required to pay AmeriCorps*NCCC labor or transportation costs.</p> <p>AmeriCorps*NCCC provides its teams with a qualified team leader, as well as transportation and basic tools.</p> <p>Project sponsors are required to provide materials, specialized tools, orientation, training and technical supervision. When teams are based off-campus, sponsors work with AmeriCorps*NCCC staff to arrange for food, housing and other logistical support.</p>
RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS	Determined by program. Generally, members are recruited locally, but a national recruitment pool is available. No displacement of existing paid employees. Programs required to use criminal background checks to screen members placed in sensitive positions to ensure safety of service recipients.		Determined by project. Members recruited both locally and through national pool. CNCS approves selections.	
AGE REQUIREMENTS	Applicants must be at least 17 years old with some exceptions available for 16 year olds. Upper age limit determined by program.		Applicants must be at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit.	
SKILL REQUIREMENTS	Skill levels needed determined by program.		A bachelor's degree or three years of related volunteer/job experience is required.	
TERM OF SERVICE	Three terms of service classifications are available: 1700 hours full-time (1.0 FTE), 900 hours part-time (0.5 FTE), and 450 hours part-time (0.25 FTE). Members can renew for a second term of service.		Full-time for one year. Can renew for a second year. No part-time service opportunities available.	
LIVING ALLOWANCE: FULL-TIME MEMBERS	Full-time members must receive between \$9,600 and \$19,200 for 1700 hours of service.	Full-time members are not required to be provided with a living allowance.	A basic subsistence allowance is paid bi-weekly. Living allowance is +/- \$9,036 per year adjusted for local cost of living.	
LIVING ALLOWANCE: PART-TIME MEMBERS	Part-time members are not required to be provided with a living allowance.		No part-time members.	
EDUCATION AWARD/STIPEND	Upon completion of service, full-time members receive a \$4,725 education award, in the form of a voucher. 900 hour part-time members receive an award of \$2,363; 450 hour part-time members receive an award of \$1,182.		Upon completion of service, full-time members receive a \$4,725 education award, in the form of a voucher, or a \$1,200 cash stipend.	

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPLICATION MATERIALS	<p>Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) 1110 K Street, Suite 210 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 323-7646 www.goserv.ca.gov</p>	<p>Corporation for National and Community Service</p> <p>Northern California 2201 Broadway Suite 510 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 273-0147</p> <p>Southern California 11150 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 670 Los Angeles, CA 90064 (310) 235-7421</p>	<p>AmeriCorps*NCCC Sharon Morioka-Estrada Director of Projects and Training, Western Region 3427 Laurel Street McClellan, CA 95652 (916) 640-0311 smorioka@cns.gov</p>
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